
MINUTES

TUESDAY 17 MAY 2011

**9.16AM – 10.17AM
10.38AM – 12.25PM
1.28PM – 3.10PM
3.30PM – 3.42PM
3.45PM – 4.08PM**

**Committee Room 1,
Ground Floor, Council Offices,
101 Wakefield Street
Wellington**

PRESENT:

Mayor Wade-Brown	(9.16am – 10.17am, 10.38am – 12.25pm, 1.28pm – 3.10pm, 3.30pm – 4.08pm)
Councillor Ahipene-Mercer	(9.16am – 10.17am, 10.38am – 12.25pm, 1.28pm – 3.10pm,)
Councillor Best (Deputy Chair)	(9.16am – 10.17am, 10.38am – 12.25pm, 1.28pm – 3.10pm, 3.30pm – 4.08pm)
Councillor Cook	(9.16am – 10.17am, 10.38am – 12.10pm, 12.17pm - 12.25pm, 1.28pm – 3.10pm, 3.30pm – 4.08pm)
Councillor Coughlan	(9.19am – 10.17am, 10.38am – 11.33am, 2.23pm – 2.56pm, 3.30pm – 4.08pm)
Councillor Eagle	(9.16am – 9.50am, 9.56am – 10.17am, 10.38am – 12.25pm, 1.28pm – 2.24pm, 3.30pm – 4.08pm)
Councillor Foster (Chair)	(9.19am – 10.17am, 10.38am – 12.25pm, 1.28pm – 3.07pm)
Councillor Gill	(9.16am – 10.17am, 10.38am – 12.25pm, 1.28pm – 2.02pm, 2.10pm – 3.10pm, 3.30pm – 3.42pm)
Councillor Lester	(9.16am – 9.42am, 9.47am – 10.17am, 10.38am – 12.25pm, 2.33pm – 3.10pm, 3.30pm – 4.08pm)
Councillor McKinnon	(9.16am – 10.17am, 10.38am – 10.40am, 10.43am - 11.33am, 1.28pm – 3.10pm)
Councillor Marsh	(9.16am – 10.17am, 10.38am – 12.00pm, 12.17pm - 12.25pm, 1.28pm – 3.10pm, 3.30pm – 4.08pm)
Councillor Morrison	(2.01pm – 2.59pm, 3.00pm – 3.10pm, 3.30pm – 4.08pm)

Councillor Pannett (9.16am – 10.17am, 10.38am – 12.06pm, 12.08pm - 12.25pm, 1.28pm – 3.10pm, 3.30pm – 4.08pm)
Councillor Pepperell (9.20am – 9.26am, 9.33am – 10.06am, 10.38am – 11.00am, 11.14am – 11.51am, 11.54am – 12.20pm, 1.28pm – 3.10pm)

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Ritchie
Councillor Marsh (lateness)

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Svea Cunliffe-Steel – City Secretary
Laura Pilgrim – Committee Advisor

Mayor Wade-Brown assumed the Chair due to the matters under consideration being Draft Annual Plan Hearings.

(Councillor Coughlan joined the meeting at 9.19am.)
(Councillor Foster joined the meeting at 9.19am.)

114/11P **APOLOGIES**
(1215/52/IM)

Moved Mayor Wade-Brown, seconded Councillor McKinnon, the motion that the Strategy and Policy Committee accept apologies for absence from Councillor Ritchie and for lateness from Councillor Morrison.

The motion was put and declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1. Accept apologies for absence from Councillor Ritchie.*
- 2. Accept apologies for lateness from Councillor Morrison.*

115/11P **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**
(1215/52/IM)

NOTED:

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

116/11P **DEPUTATIONS**
(1215/52/IM)

NOTED:

There were no deputations.

117/11P **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
(1215/52/IM)

NOTED:

There was no public participation.

118/11P **PETITIONS**
(1215/52/IM)

NOTED:

There were no petitions.

(Councillor Pepperell arrived at 9.20am.)

119/11P **ORAL SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2011/2012
DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN (DAP) (9.21AM – 4.08PM)**
(1215/52/IM)

1. Janet Weir addressed the Committee and raised concerns in relation to the impact of increases in rates or service costs on those on low income or fixed incomes. Ms Weir said that rates represented a high percentage of household costs and unlike other costs, there was little flexibility in paying the rates and whilst house prices had fallen since the economic downturn, rates had not decreased to reflect the change. Ms Weir said that many residents, who owned buildings that required a high level of maintenance, were deferring essential work which would lead to areas becoming run down due to these increased costs. Ms. Weir expressed her deep concern in relation to the proposed Council spending plans in tough economic times, as although some decisions had been made and could not be reversed there were some plans, such as the feasibility study for a deep water pool, which could and should be stopped. Ms Weir suggested that there were other projects, such as the Cuba Street Carnival which could be supported for less money but would have a greater effect in improving the vibrancy of the city.

(Councillor Pepperell left the meeting at 9.26am.)

2. Susan Beard addressed the Committee and informed the Committee that she strongly objected to the feasibility study for the proposed deep water pool and the deep water pool itself, as due to the current economic climate this was not the appropriate time for such expenditure which did not present value for money. Ms Beard said that the Kilbirnie Leisure Centre was already a wonderful complex with excellent facilities as where other facilities such as Johnsonville required funding for maintenance. Ms. Beard also raised concern that the proposed location of the deep water pool in Kilbirnie was not appropriate as it was not easily accessible to those living outside the city centre and consequently the Council should focus its efforts on funding maintenance where needed, reducing the prices for services where the facilities require maintenance, developing the learn to swim programme and public transport to pools. Mrs Beard also raised concern with the proposal to reduce the number of international news papers in the library, as she felt that the removal of news papers would impact upon those who were unable to access the internet.

TABLED: Supplementary Information from Susan Beard, reference 119/11P (a).

(Councillor Pepperell rejoined the meeting at 9.33am.)

(Councillor Lester left the meeting at 9.42am.)

3. Chris Renwick addressed the Committee and paid tribute to David Butler and Robert Logan, both of whom had contributed a lot of time and assistance to the people of Wellington. Mr Renwick said that there were problems with The Terrace traffic, as one side of the street had islands and other traffic calming measures but the other side for the street did not. Mr. Renwick said that he had raised this issue with the Director of Infrastructure who had advised him that it was not possible to ensure that both sides of the street had the same traffic calming measures. Mr Renwick said that in his view facilities such as the library should not be cut and that the Council was short-sighted in its proposal to cut grants and to undertake a feasibility study into the deep water pool.

(Councillor Lester rejoined the meeting at 9.47am.)

(Councillor Eagle left the meeting at 9.50am.)

4. Carol Comber addressed the Committee and said that due to the recent Christchurch earthquake disaster prevention should be the Council's first priority. Mrs Comber said that while she was not opposed to the feasibility study into the deep water pool the Council should take into consideration the fact the ratepayers already subsidise the cost of running pools. Additionally, she suggested that instead of reducing the closing hours of the Central Library, the library could consider

opening an hour later in the morning as libraries services are more than just books, with the library providing a source of information and access to meetings rooms and the internet for those who did not have access at home, including students.

(Councillor Eagle rejoined the meeting at 9.56am.)

5. Peter Brooks representing the Wellington Civic Trust addressed the Committee and said that the Trust had been in regular contact with the Council and felt that the proposed strategy was appropriate given the current economic climate. Mr Brooks noted on behalf of the Trust that while the Trust was not against the proposals regarding the changes to car parking fees and hours of operation they did raise their concern over the potential impact and that the impact should be monitored. Additionally, Mr Brooks suggested that Council spending should be disciplined and the proposed \$650,000 feasibility study into a deep water pool was not consistent with this approach. Although the Trust acknowledged that the Council had an obligation to meet the needs of their residents, there were still a number of unanswered questions in relation to why the pool was needed now, and why the Council should proceed to fund the pool without outside funding sources. Finally, Mr Brooks suggested that the Council should plan more towards its commitment to the reduction of the city's greenhouse gas emissions, as current proposals and strategies did not appear to support the commitment to such a reduction.

6. Bruce Stokell addressed the Committee and provided an overview of his 40 years experience in the sport and leisure industry. Mr Stokell said that his main area of concern in the Draft Annual Plan is the proposed feasibility study for a deep water pool, as firstly the proposed cost of the study is an exorbitant amount, and secondly as this study included funding to carry out most of the planning and design work in addition to the feasibility work. Mr Stokell said that this appeared to be an unnecessary part of the proposed study especially when there was no guarantee of funding for the pool following the study, and consequently a commitment to the study in its current form would place pressure on the Council to sacrifice other projects in order to complete the pool.

(Councillor Pepperell left the meeting at 10.06am.)

(The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.17am.)

(The meeting resumed at 10.38am.)

(Mayor Wade-Brown and Councillors Ahipene-Mercer, Best, Cook, Coughlan, Eagle, Foster, Gill, Lester, Marsh, McKinnon, Pannett and Pepperell were present when the meeting resumed.)

7. Anne-Margaret Campbell from the Wellington Hockey Association addressed the Committee and thanked elected members for the Council's replacement of the Number 1 Turf at the National Hockey Stadium over the summer, with feedback received from users being extremely positive. Mrs Campbell said that the Number 2 turf at this site was now deteriorating and while the Number 2 turf may have lasted to the end of the season there were serious concerns over the ability to use the pitch the following season and during the National Hockey League in August 2011, an important event in the hockey calendar which attracted hundreds of people into the city.

(Councillor McKinnon left the meeting at 10.40am.)

(Councillor McKinnon rejoined the meeting at 10.43am.)

8. Bernard O'Shaughnessy addressed the Committee on behalf of CAT, BAB, BAG, Tin Do, HART, and NPFTASSOC and said that while the concept of a deep water pool was a good idea it was not an affordable option in the current economic climate and that alternative options such as a salt water pool should be considered. Mr O'Shaughnessy said that in relation to Social Housing the Council had consulted with various organisations during the review of the Council's Housing Policy and that the majority of respondents requested that more single units should be built, which had not eventuated. Lastly, Mr O'Shaughnessy said that there is a significant issue of liquor licensing in the city, with the Council's District Licensing Agency failing in its legal duty under the Sale of Liquor Licensing Act 1989 to prevent problems associated with excessive liquor consumption in and around Courtenay Place. Mr O'Shaughnessy requested that a higher emphasis had to be placed on dealing with this issue, with steps such as the Liquor Ban in Newtown helping to reduce excessive alcohol consumption.

9. Noeline Gannaway addressed the Committee and expressed her views that the fluoridation of water in Wellington should not continue. Ms. Gannaway said that due to her personal experience of the negative effects of the fluoridation of water and extensive reading on the subject, Mrs. Gannaway was of the opinion that the negative effects outweighed the perceived gains and that the Council should request that the Greater Wellington Regional Council cease fluoridation of water.

(Councillor Pepperell left the meeting at 11.00am.)

10. Linda Hobman addressed the Committee and said that as a proud Wellingtonian she wishes that the Wellington City Council would support the variety of people looking to build a better a better life by speaking up on the growing number of central Government policies which are increasing inequality within the community. Ms Hobman said that an example of the growing levels of inequality were the cuts to services for those with mental health problems, with an already stretched to capacity service further cut. In addition, the closure of mental health homes would increase the number of people living on the street and would lead to serious safety concerns for the public and those needing support. Finally, Ms. Hobman said that due to the current economic climate, the Council should not support a \$650,000 feasibility study into a deep water pool.

TABLED: Supplementary Information from Linda Hobman, reference 119/11P (b).

(Councillor Pepperell rejoined the meeting at 11.14am.)

11. Michael Collett addressed the Committee and raised areas of concern regarding the DAP. Firstly, Mr Collett said that although last year the Council had funded a feasibility study into the Johnsonville Hub, progress on the Hub had stalled due to ongoing discussions about the location of the library. Secondly, Mr. Collett was concerned that the proposed deep water pool and the required funding may affect the second phase of funding for pool refurbishment in Johnsonville. Although the Director of City Services had allayed some of these concerns Mr. Collett requested that the refurbishment of the female showers should be included in phase 2 of the refurbishment of the Johnsonville pool. Mr Collett said that although the deep water pool would be “nice to have” in times of economic growth, given the current economic climate it should not progress. Mr Collett said that there did not appear to be a groundswell of public support for the pool and that the matter should be deferred for two years in order to be presented to the electorate as an issue.
12. Bassim Haddad addressed the Committee and said that he believed that the fluoridation of water was against nature and that people would in future look back and regret the decision to add fluoride to water in a country that prided itself on its clean and green image. Mr. Haddad understood that the Ministry of Health supported the fluoridation of water, however the principle of mass medication was still an issue especially when the topical application of fluoride was sufficient.

(Councillor McKinnon left the meeting at 11.33am.)

(Councillor Coughlan left the meeting at 11.33am.)

13. Rutger Keijser addressed the Committee and advised Councillors that cuts could be avoided if it took advantage of opportunities to save money or improve income, citing instances where the Council could have been proactive in responding to issues and saved money in the long run especially when responding to problems with infrastructure. Mr Keijser drew Councillors' attention to the fact that not all residents had received their new bin bags under the new recycling policy and in order to deal with this matter expensive couriers had been employed to deliver the bags to residents.
14. Ms. Cameron addressed the Committee and supported the proposals for a deep water swimming pool as the current facilities were under significant pressure. As an elite swimmer Ms. Cameron found that there were very few lanes and times of the day which could accommodate her training schedule. Ms. Cameron said that there was also pressure on lane space from the Learn to Swim programme and from general recreational swimmers leading to collisions between swimmers. Ms. Cameron said that due to the earthquake in Christchurch the Kilbirnie pool currently was the only 10 lane pool in the country. Finally, Ms. Cameron suggested that opening some of the swimming pools an hour or two earlier in the morning would also assist in easing congestion and help create a safe and enjoyable environment for swimmers.

(Councillor Pepperrell left the meeting at 11.51am.)

(Councillor Pepperrell rejoined the meeting at 11.54am.)

(Councillor Marsh left the meeting at 12.00pm.)

15. David Kleist addressed the Committee and informed the Committee that he would like to see the Kowhai bus route extended to the weekend as many people in the area work on the weekends and there are also people who would like to be able to access events in the city centre during these periods. Mr Kleist said that during the week there are no bus services after 8.15 pm, making commuting home difficult for those who work late or undertake activities in the CBD. Mr. Kleist said that he had been in touch with GO Wellington who had advised him that they would never introduce a weekend service to Kowhai as the current service is not profitable.

(Councillor Pannett left the meeting at 12.06pm.)

(Councillor Pannett rejoined the meeting at 12.08pm.)

16. Christopher John Wilson addressed the Committee and said that he was of the opinion that it was important that library services were not cut during a tight fiscal period, as libraries were particularly important in an age of austerity due to their wide use by a large number of people. Mr Wilson commended the Council on its work in creating a village atmosphere in different parts of the city and suggested that lower speed limits be introduced in Kilbirnie as well. Mr. Wilson

advised that he was a keen pedestrian and that whilst a lot of work had been undertaken to improve pedestrian safety, more could have been done in drivers and pedestrian education.

(Councillor Cook left the meeting at 12.10pm.)

(Councillor Marsh rejoined the meeting at 12.17pm.)

(Councillor Cook rejoined the meeting at 12.17pm.)

(Councillor Pepperell left the meeting at 12.20pm.)

17. Paula Warren addressed the Committee and said that she felt that she had received good value out of the rates that she paid and that there should be a continuation of the services currently provided by the Council. Ms. Warren highlighted a number of suggestions to assist the Council in the continuity of services, such as a more modern way of dealing with storm water and revision of the current transport plan, with volunteers able to be employed where necessary to assist.

(The Committee adjourned for lunch at 12.25pm.)

(The Committee reconvened at 1.28pm with Mayor Wade-Brown and Councillors Ahipene-Mercer, Best, Cook, Eagle, Foster, Gill, Lester, Marsh, McKinnon, Pannett and Pepperell present)

18. Alison White representing Safe Food Campaign addressed the Committee and discussed the fluoridation of water. Ms White provided a diagram which identified that there is no relationship between the fluoridation of water and improvements in dental health, and that the environmental effects of fluoride in the water had been overlooked leading to the fact that salmon eggs were unable to hatch in fluoridated water. Ms White also brought to Members' attention further details on the use of plastics in food containers, and what plastics were not suitable for use.

TABLED: Supplementary Information from Alison White, reference 119/11P (c).

19. Deb Gully addressed the Committee and said that as an individual, and natural health practitioner, she did not want her family exposed to fluoride in water. Mrs Gully said that fluoride did not address the causes of tooth decay, damaged dental, physical and mental health, and that it was unethical to mass medicate the population.

TABLED: Supplementary Information from Deb Gully, reference 119/11P (d).

20. Lynn Jordan addressed the Committee and also spoke in support of removing fluoride from the water supply. Mrs Jordan said that there was evidence that exposure to fluoridated water had caused a number of health problems included aching joints which she had experienced herself. Furthermore, adding fluoride to the water could potentially be dangerous, with doctors advising not to use fluoridated water for the

preparation of infants formula. The cost of the fluoridation of water was also raised, as the \$262,000 required for this annually could potentially be better spent on other initiatives or projects.

(Councillor Morrison joined the meeting at 2.01pm.)

(Councillor Gill left the meeting at 2.02pm.)

21. John Milford, from Kirkcaldie and Stains, addressed the Committee and discussed the challenging economic climate and the ways the Council could support business by maintaining the vibrancy of the city. Mr Milford suggested the importance of decreasing costs where possible, in particular in CCOs. Mr Milford reminded Councillors that business and hospitality trade was having a difficult time and that this would continue for the foreseeable future and could be compounded by increases in car-parking fees.

(Councillor Gill rejoined the meeting at 2.10pm.)

Mr Milford suggested that while the hospitality trade would experience a significant boost during the Rugby World Cup, this may not be shared by the retail sector, and consequently increased parking fees would be particularly hard on the retail sector.

(Councillor Coughlan rejoined the meeting at 2.23pm.)

(Councillor Eagle left the meeting at 2.24pm.)

22. Warwick Wiles addressed the Committee and requested further assistance for those who have been affected by weathertightness issues with their homes. Mr. Warwick outlined the issues that he had experienced in the home which he had lived in since it was built in 1989 and noted that while repairs had been made to his residential complex they were funded by residents as the tribunal process was still ongoing. Consequently, Mr. Warwick requested that those affected by leaky homes were not penalised more than once by having to pay additional fees and apply for building consent approvals in addition to the money they had to pay to repair their homes.
23. Peter Hunt, representing Forest and Bird, addressed the Committee and discussed issues stemming from climate change. Mr Hunt said that there was little meaningful work being done to combat climate change and suggested tree planting programmes as a way to help combat CO2 emissions, which could be undertaken by the large number of volunteers willing to assist such programs.
24. Hadyn Smith, representing the Alex Moore Park Sport and Community Board, addressed the Committee and thanked the Council for the work completed thus far on the installation of an artificial sports surface at Alex Moore Park. Mr Smith requested that funding for the artificial turf be brought forward, to help speed up the construction for the site currently underway.

(Councillor Coughlan left the meeting at 2.56pm.)
(Councillor Morrison left the meeting at 2.59pm.)
(Councillor Morrison rejoined the meeting at 3.00pm.)

25. Jarod Coburn joined the Committee and said that he was concerned that the Council was currently not undertaking sufficient planning in preparation for an emergency event. As the Draft Annual Plan did not identify any changes being made to emergency planning despite the Christchurch earthquake, Mr Coburn suggested that the Council should conduct a review of its budget and policies, and focus on improving community resilience rather than preparedness.

(Councillor Foster left the meeting at 3.07pm.)

(The Committee adjourned at 3.10pm for afternoon tea)
(The meeting reconvened at 3.30pm with Mayor Wade-Brown, and Councillors Ahipene-Mercer Best, Cook, Coughlan, Eagle, Gill, Lester, Morrison, Marsh, and Pannett present)

26. Nikolaus Luger addressed the Committee and discussed the possibility of the Council creating a one off art installation in Mount Victoria. Mr Luger suggested that 5 areas of trees facing towards the city be illuminated by halogen lighting so that they could be seen by those on Courtenay Place and those flying into the city, creating an iconic piece of art for the city and also further highlighting the beauty of the City's Green Belt.

(The meeting adjourned for a short break at 3.42pm.)
(The meeting reconvened at 3.45pm with Mayor Wade-Brown, Councillors Best, Cook, Coughlan, Eagle, Lester, Marsh, Morrison and Pannett present)

27. Mike Egan, representing the Restaurant Association of New Zealand, addressed the Committee and discussed the proposed parking fee increases and the impact that they would have on business. Mr Egan said that this increase would reduce the number of people coming into the CBD to visit restaurants and would reverse all the hard work that the Council has put into branding the city and improving its vibrancy. Mr Egan said that there was strong evidence from other cities in the world that an increase in car parking charges would result in a decrease in revenue as shoppers and other visitors went elsewhere, and that in areas where car parking charges had increased the revenue of businesses had decreased by 30-40%.

TABLED: Supplementary Information from RANZ, reference 119/11P (e).

(The meeting adjourned at 4.08pm to reconvene on Tuesday 18 May 2011 at 9.15am.)

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2011

9.18AM – 10.31AM
10.47AM – 12.39PM
1.45PM – 3.20PM
3.30PM – 4.07PM

**Committee Room 1,
 Ground Floor, Council Offices,
 101 Wakefield Street
 Wellington**

PRESENT:

Mayor Wade-Brown	(9.18am – 10.31am, 11.36am – 12.21pm, 1.45pm – 3.14pm)
Councillor Ahipene-Mercer	(9.18am – 10.02am, 10.04am - 10.31am, 10.47am – 10.56am, 11.52am – 12.39pm, 1.56pm – 3.20pm, 3.30pm – 4.07pm)
Councillor Best (Deputy Chair)	(9.18am – 10.31am, 10.47am – 12.39pm, 1.45pm – 3.20pm, 3.30pm – 4.07pm)
Councillor Cook	(9.18am – 10.14am, 10.15am - 10.31am, 10.47am – 12.39pm, 1.45pm – 3.20pm, 3.30pm – 4.07pm)
Councillor Coughlan	(9.18am – 10.31am, 10.47am – 12.39pm, 2.04pm – 3.20pm, 3.30pm – 4.07pm)
Councillor Eagle	(9.18am – 10.31am, 10.47am – 11.09am, 11.53am - 12.39pm, 1.45pm – 2.22pm, 2.24pm – 2.39pm, 2.43pm - 3.20pm, 3.30pm – 4.07pm)
Councillor Foster (Chair)	(9.21am – 10.31am, 10.47am – 12.39pm, 1.45pm – 2.16pm, 2.21pm - 3.20pm, 3.30pm – 4.07pm)
Councillor Gill	(9.18am – 10.31am, 10.47am – 12.39pm, 1.45pm – 2.04pm, 2.22pm - 3.20pm, 3.30pm – 4.07pm)
Councillor Lester	(9.18am – 10.31am, 10.47am – 12.39pm, 2.16pm – 3.05pm, 3.30pm – 4.07pm)
Councillor McKinnon	(9.18am – 10.31am, 10.47am – 11.28am, 3.30pm – 4.07pm)

Councillor Marsh	(9.18am – 10.31am, 10.47am – 12.39pm, 2.02pm – 3.20pm, 3.30pm – 4.07pm)
Councillor Morrison	(9.19am – 10.31am, 10.47am – 11.42am, 1.45pm – 3.20pm, 3.30pm – 4.07pm)
Councillor Pannett	(9.20am – 10.31am, 10.47am – 12.39pm, 1.45pm – 3.20pm, 3.30pm – 4.07pm)
Councillor Pepperell	(9.18am – 9.54am, 9.57am – 10.29am, 10.47am – 10.54am, 10.56am – 11.35am, 11.42am – 12.39pm, 2.05pm – 3.03pm, 3.05pm - 3.20pm, 3.30pm – 3.51pm, 3.55pm - 4.07pm)

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Svea Cunliffe-Steel – City Secretary

Laura Pilgrim – Committee Advisor

120/11P **APOLOGIES**
(1215/52/IM)

NOTED:

There were no apologies.

121/11P **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**
(1215/52/IM)

NOTED:

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

122/11P **ORAL SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2011/2012
DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN (DAP) CONT...** (9.18AM – 4.07PM.)
(1215/52/IM)

28. Peter Pfitzinger, representing the NZ Academy of Sport, addressed the Committee and discussed the role that his organisation plays in developing and encouraging athletes within the Wellington region in a variety of sports. Mr Pfitzinger said that it was essential for the development of these sports and the athletes that the Council continue to assist in funding the Wellington City Council Talent Development Programme. While council funding had ceased in June 2010, the organisation had been able to continue within existing funding means to December 2011, but would require an additional \$45,000 over a three year period to ensure that the programme continued.

(Councillor Morrison joined the meeting at 9.19am.)

(Councillor Pannett joined the meeting at 9.20am.)

(Councillor Foster joined the meeting at 9.21am.)

29. Mark Atkin and Mary Byrne, representing FANNZ, addressed the Committee and discussed the issue of fluoridation of water which had not been reviewed by Council for almost 20 years. Mr Aitken said that during this 20 year period more research into the affects of fluoridation of water has led to only a few countries in the world still adding fluoride to water. Mr. Atkin said that he believed that there was sufficient evidence to link the fluoridation of water to illnesses such as osetosarcoma and chronic fatigue syndrome. Ms Byrne said that the potential gain in reducing the number of fillings per person did not outweigh the serious health implications for some due to the fluoridation of water and that while she had previously believed that the fluoridation of water was safe, following research in the area that she had become aware of the health concerns.

TABLED: Supplementary Information from FANNZ, reference 122/11P (a).

30. Barney Scully addressed the Committee and discussed Council's response to his previous DAP submissions, which he felt were inadequate and left him with serious concerns regarding the process involved when making submissions. Mr. Scully's main concern related to the damage to the environment cause by the construction work at the airport and that the area around the airport and foreshore had been used as a rubbish dump and would not present a good image for the city during the Rugby World Cup. Mr Scully suggested that the Council work with the airport to ensure that the foreshore area, which had previously been an asset to the community, was improved.

(Councillor Pepperell left the meeting at 9.54am.)

(Councillor Pepperell rejoined the meeting at 9.57am.)

(Councillor Ahipene-Mercer left the meeting at 10.02 am.)

(Councillor Ahipene-Mercer rejoined the meeting at 10.04 am.)

31. Rosamund Averton addressed the Committee and discussed the Mount Victoria area and the need for imporved signage in the areato indicate access to the Mount Victoria summit. Ms Averton said that the paths in the park were not suited to all walkers and consequently steps would make it easier to walk to the summit. Ms Averton also raised concerns as to the number of slopes used by cyclists and Ms Averton suggested the installation of bollards and a dedicated area for 'down-hillers' to ensure that the park can be used safely by all users. Finally, Ms Averton said that she had made a number of submissions to the Council which asked for more buildings, structures, sites and

vegetation to be included in the Heritage Inventory and for the whole area to be properly surveyed.

TABLED: Supplementary Information from Rosamund Averton, reference 122/11P (b).

32. Dr Margaret Gordon addressed the Committee and said that the Council should do more to show ratepayers how voluntary water meters could save money and the efficiencies that could be gained from this. Mrs Gordon also said that further money could be saved in this area by allowing people to give their own meter readings, replacing the administration charge with a fixed base charge and a uniform water charge for the Greater Wellington area. Finally, Dr Gordon suggested that the Council should consider a phased in change in the price or timing of the proposed weeknight parking costs until bus services improve. An alternative solution would be to establish frequent buses to the free park and ride car parks on the outskirts of the city.

TABLED: Supplementary Information from Dr Margaret Gordon, reference 122/11P (c).

(Councillor Cook left the meeting at 10.14am.)

(Councillor Cook rejoined the meeting at 10.15am.)

33. Sarah Fox, from Health Freedom Trust NZ, addressed the Committee and discussed the fluoridation of water. Ms Fox said that dental fluorosis was more expensive to treat than fillings, and that the making of infants formula with fluoridated water increases the risk of infants contracting dental fluorosis later in life. Ms Fox said that while the Hippocratic Oath required that all doctors did no the harm, fluoridation of water was proven to cause harm and was therefore an unacceptable practice.
34. Sarah Adams addressed the Committee and said that she had been very active in the area of community gardens within Wellington for a number of years. As community gardens were an asset for the city and the benefits were wide reaching, Ms Adams urged Councillors to develop community gardens further by creating a coordinator post in order to assist in the expansion of the service. Community gardens were receiving higher levels of demand and had been approached by various groups such as those involved in Youth Offending projects however, due to the limited time of volunteers they were unable to take up any further development.

(Councillor Pepperell left the meeting at 10.29am.)

(The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.31am.)

(The meeting resumed at 10.47am.)

(Councillors Ahipene-Mercer, Best, Cook, Coughlan, Eagle, Foster, Gill, Lester, Marsh, McKinnon, Morrison, Pannett and Pepperell were present when the meeting resumed.)

In the absence of Mayor Wade-Brown Councillor McKinnon assumed the Chair.

35. Ashlee Gross addressed the Committee and requested that the Council should consider adopting a pilot for a residential solar hot water programme with the intention that this would lead to a full scale programme in the next LTCCP. Mrs Gross suggested that the introduction of such a programme would assist the Council in improving its environmental credentials through the Council bulk buying the product and then offer the scheme to its residents. This scheme would help reduce green house gas emissions and increase resilience in the face of rising energy prices and potential natural disasters.

(Councillor Pepperell left the meeting at 10.54am.)

(Councillor Pepperell rejoined the meeting at 10.56am.)

(Councillor Ahipene-Mercer left the meeting at 10.56am.)

36. David Watt representing the NZ Historic Places Trust addressed the Committee and discussed how subsequent to recent events in Christchurch it was important that the Council focussed on the improvement of community resilience, with the NZHPT recommending that all heritage buildings should be strengthened to 67% prior to the February 2011 earthquake in Christchurch. Mr Watt commended the Council on its \$329,000 commitment to the strengthening of heritage buildings and commented that this figure may need to rise in future years
37. John Albertson from the Retailers Association addressed the Committee and said that the Association recognised the difficulties which the Council had to face in developing the proposed budget for 2011/12. While the Association was supportive of planned investment in Positively Wellington Tourism, city centre events and the downtown levy, the Association had a number of concerns surrounding the proposed changes to the car parking charges and hours of operation which would result in customers not wanting to pay for the additional cost of parking in the city centre and shopping elsewhere. Mr Albertson said that as the retail sector is the largest employer in the city, the dangers of a downturn in business would impact upon all Wellington residents. Finally, Mr Albertson said that as the Council was not able to say for certain what impact the changes to parking fees would have upon business, the Council should keep the parking system as it is currently.

(Councillor Eagle left the meeting at 11.09am.)

38. Nick Mills, representing Saints Basketball, addressed the Committee and requested that the Council re-instate financial assistance to the Saints Basketball Club as the Club was a non-profit organisation which provided coaching for school children and raised the profile of Wellington. Mr Mills said that while the Club had been successful in the domestic league and attracted a wide range of supporters it was only through the generosity of its supporters that the Club was able to continue operating, and consequently assistance was needed to ensure that the players had a consistent place to practice which was not always guaranteed at the moment. Mr Mills noted that in an effort to cut costs, the Club no longer used Ticketek to sell their tickets and would sell tickets directly to the public, including for the final four games of the national basketball league which would be held in Wellington.

TABLED: Supplementary Information from Nick Mills, reference 122/11P (d).

(Councillor McKinnon left the meeting at 11.28am.)

In the absence of Mayor Wade-Brown and Councillor McKinnon, Councillor Foster assumed the Chair.

39. David Perks representing Positively Wellington Tourism addressed the Committee and discussed the number of visitors to New Zealand from Australia, which had increased in Wellington due to events such as Wellington on a Plate, Wearable Arts, and Test Matches and the Rugby World Cup. Despite a decrease in visitor numbers overall to NZ, Mr Perks said that the Council should build on the legacy of 2011 and to continue to attract similar events to the city such as the New Zealand Sevens Tournament which was an excellent platform for attracting visitors to the city. Mr Perks said that in 2012 the city would host the Society of American Travel Writers, an excellent opportunity to showcase the city to a wider audience.

(Councillor Pepperell left the meeting at 11.35am.)

(Mayor Wade-Brown rejoined the meeting at 11.36am.)

Mayor Wade-Brown assumed the Chair.

(Councillor Pepperell rejoined the meeting at 11.42am.)

(Councillor Morrison left the meeting at 11.42am.)

40. Mary and David Crampton addressed the Committee and suggested that the Council should consider increasing the hours that the Central Library is open on Sunday, especially if the hours of operation during the week are reduced to assist those who work during the week and are more likely to use the library on a weekend. Next, Mr Crampton said that the Council should go ahead with the proposed feasibility study for a deep water pool in order to improve the facilities for swimmers within the city. Finally, Mr. Crampton discussed discrepancies in the pricing of swim sessions, as it was more expensive for the family to purchase a concession card for his son to swim than it was for the cost of the swim using a Leisure Card. Mr. Crampton urged the Council not to increase the fees for Leisure Cards or swim sessions as it would have a negative effect on those on limited incomes.

(Councillor Ahipene-Mercer rejoined the meeting at 11.52am.)

(Councillor Eagle rejoined the meeting at 11.53am.)

41. James Cowan from the Amora Hotel addressed the Committee and discussed the written submission he had made in relation to the Draft Annual Plan. Mr Cowan supported the Council in investing money to attract events and visitors into the city and urged the Council to continue this investment subsequent to the Rugby World Cup to capitalize on the coverage provided by the Rugby World Cup. Mr. Cowan suggested that the Council would have to bid for inter-region events in the future and that the construction of another large scale venue, such as the Westpac Stadium, would have a significant impact on visitors to the city. The Council was encouraged to work with the private sector within the city to come up with creative events and methods of marketing the city.
42. Stephen Palmer from Regional Public Health addressed the Committee and discussed the fluoridation of water. Mr Palmer suggested on behalf of RPH that as that there had been a number of submissions on the fluoridation of water, the RPH suggested that a wider consultation process on the costs/benefits of the fluoridation of water should take place. RPH illustrated a number of concerns they had in relation to the quality of evidence used by campaigners against the fluoridation of water and that as Maori, Pacific Island and lower socio economic children gained most from water fluoridation, making fluoridated water only available in bottled form for purchase would be difficult for these groups due to its affordability. Responding to comments that fluoride can be topically applied, Mr Palmer informed the Committee that the evidence showed that the most effective use of fluoride was a low level dose over a prolonged period, which meant that the fluoride would stay in the water longer through saliva.

(Mayor Wade-Brown left the meeting at 12.21pm.)

In the absence of Mayor Wade-Brown and Councillors McKinnon and Foster, Councillor Best assumed the Chair.

43. Charmaine Meyers from the Northern Community Gardens joined the Committee and requested that the Council increase resources for community gardens in Wellington. Ms Meyers said that there was a wide range of benefits associated with community gardens, including health, education and social benefits. In addition to these benefits the community gardens assisted in improving community resilience. Ms Meyers said that an ideal outcome would be for the Council to fund a Community Garden Coordinator post who could assist current Council Officers and volunteers in developing sites, including a garden in the northern suburbs of the city.

(The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.39pm.)

(The meeting resumed at 1.45pm.)

(Mayor Wade-Brown and Councillors Best, Cook, Eagle, Gill, Foster, Morrison and Pannett were present when the meeting resumed.)

44. Heather Smith from Democrats for Social Credit addressed the Committee and said that given the level of public debt it was important that the Council adopted a funding system which would not burden the rate-payers with debt-servicing costs. Furthermore, Ms Smith said that there was growing support for a policy that public capital projects should be financed by 0-1% interest credit-lines facilitated by a central bank. Finally, Ms Smith said that the Democrats for Social Credit were concerned regarding the proposals for a Local Government Funding Agency as the legislative scrutiny required for such a project was not sufficient.

(Councillor Ahipene-Mercer rejoined the meeting at 1.56pm.)

45. Sarah Tucker from the Hospitality Association of NZ addressed the Committee and said that while the City centre was currently a vibrant area, the proposed changes to the parking fees and hours of operation would have a negative impact on this. Mrs Tucker said that as there had been a continuing trend for people to entertain others at home rather than heading to pubs or restaurants, the increase in parking fees would only exacerbate this problem. Mrs Tucker said that as the proposed \$5 charge was high in comparison to other cities. A 50c increase in the hourly rate could be supported as long as the hours of parking enforcement did not also increase. Whilst the Association acknowledged that the Council required an increase in revenue, Mrs Tucker said that this needed to be balanced with the possibility that customers would vote with their cars and go elsewhere if the cost of coming into the city was too high.

(Councillor Marsh rejoined the meeting at 2.02pm.)
 (Councillor Coughlan joined the meeting at 2.04pm.)
 (Councillor Gill left the meeting at 2.04pm.)
 (Councillor Pepperell rejoined the meeting at 2.05pm.)

46. Tom Law and Anne Copsey from the Newtown Community Cultural Centre addressed the Committee and discussed the services which the NCCC provided. Mr Law and Mrs Copsey said that the NCCC building on Rintoul/Colombo Street required considerable work to bring it up to standard and funding for work had been secured as part of the LTCCP. Mr Law informed the Council that Community Centre staff, employed directly by the Council in other Community Centres, were paid more than Ms Copsey was in Newtown and consequently further funding was required to ensure that the NCCC could pay its staff at the same level as Council staff in the same post.

(Councillor Foster left the meeting at 2.16pm.)
 (Councillor Lester rejoined the meeting at 2.16pm.)
 (Councillor Foster rejoined the meeting at 2.21pm.)
 (Councillor Gill rejoined the meeting at 2.22pm.)

47. Tom Law addressed the Committee and raised concern with the proposed delay of maintenance in certain areas as he believed that this could cost the Council more in the future. Mr Law said that in relation to the \$650,000 for the feasibility study into a deep water pool, he was of the opinion that the cost and the amount of work proposed as part of the study would mean the decision on the matter would be a forgone conclusion, with little opportunity in the proposed process for the Council to reassess the project or to put it on hold. Mr Law said that he was neutral on the proposed changes in the opening hours at the Central Library, however the Council should look at the number of users at the Library for the first hour in the day as it may be more beneficial to open later than to close an hour earlier.

(Councillor Eagle left the meeting at 2.22pm.)
 (Councillor Eagle rejoined the meeting at 2.24pm.)

48. Jeremy Harding from the Wellington Employers' Chamber of Commerce joined the Committee and said that the Chamber of Commerce believed that the Council had done well to constrain its rate rise given the challenges faced, however there was potential for further savings. In addition, there needed to be more transparency in the Annual Plan to give ratepayers a better idea of how much was spent and how it was funded. The Chamber of Commerce supported the proposed list of service reductions set out in the DAP 2011/12 but suggested that the Council also consider a range of further savings, with the organisation happy to work with the Council to find. Mr Harding said that it was important that the Council did not stray outside its core business and that it did not go too large relative to the size of Wellington. Mr Harding said that the Chamber of Commerce

was also happy to see that the DAP 2011/12 proposed to continue the phase-down of the business differential, but that the Council should consider a review of its funding policies to ensure that the burden on businesses is not too high if the Council wanted to retain businesses in the city. In relation to the proposals to increase car parking fees Mr Harding said that it was believed that this would damage the vibrancy of the city as fewer people would come in to the city and the increases were not justified by the Council's occupancy and turnover targets or on the grounds on cost recovery and inflation. Mr Harding said that instead of increasing parking fees, the Chamber of Commerce believed that the Council should consider selling shares in Wellington International Airport and rationalising Council Controlled Organisations.

(Councillor Eagle left the meeting at 2.39pm.)

(Councillor Eagle rejoined the meeting at 2.43pm.)

49. Liz Springford addressed the Committee and discussed the challenges that the Council was facing in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Ms Springford said that there needed to be a consistent and logical approach to transport safety and that the Council should focus spending on pilots to improve community resilience and services such as City Hop. Ms Springford said that in relation to the proposal for a deep water pool, she did not believe that this was a good idea both in economic terms and the suitability of the site, with the proposed site having issues in relation to storm water surges.
50. Alex Gray addressed the Committee and spoke in support of proposals to the proposed changes in services in the Central Library and advised that he had suggested some of these proposals in his submission for the DAP 2009/10. Mr Gray said that in relation to the proposed feasibility study into a deep water pool he felt that there were issues with the proposed location in terms of the impact of an earthquake and storm water surges. Furthermore, the cost of the feasibility study was significant and the current economic climate did not make such spending appropriate. Mr Gray did not support the proposed changes to the car parking fee structure as there was already a number of empty car parking spaces around the city and increasing the cost of car parking would only exacerbate this.

(Councillor Pepperell left the meeting at 3.03pm.)

(Councillor Lester left the meeting at 3.05pm.)

(Councillor Pepperell rejoined the meeting at 3.05pm.)

51. Dr. Scott Metcalfe from NZ Climate and Health urged Councillors to keep the issue of climate change at the forefront of the city's planning, and to consider the impact of sea level rises when considering the proposals for a deep water pool in Kilbirnie. Mr Metcalfe said that base projected sea levels used in planning scenarios should be much

higher and integrated across all planning, and that the Council should support strengthening community and neighbourhood resilience.

(Mayor Wade-Brown left the meeting at 3.14pm.)

In the absence of Mayor Wade-Brown and Councillor McKinnon, Councillor Foster assumed the Chair.

52. Rex Manning from the Foundation for the National Hockey Stadium requested that the Council provide funds for the replacement of the Number 2 turf at the National Hockey Stadium in 2011/12, as the Number 2 turf had deteriorated to a stage where games had to be cancelled on a regular basis, causing significant problems. Mr Manning said that the Stadium hosted two 2 week tournaments each year, which would not be able to take place if the turf was not replaced. It was suspected that some drainage work would also have to be completed as part of the replacement of the pitch.

(The meeting adjourned at 3.20pm for afternoon tea.)

(The meeting resumed at 3.30pm.)

(Councillors Ahipene-Mercer, Best, Cook, Coughlan, Eagle, Foster, Gill, Lester, Marsh, McKinnon, Morrison, Pannett and Pepperell were present when the meeting resumed.)

53. Seth Hickling and Robyn Moore provided information to Councillors on the work that they carried out in village planning and the potential benefits to communities if the Council was to embark on some of the projects which they had been involved in. Mr Hickling said that the benefits of village planning included the improvement in community spirit and creativity leading to a greater pride in the local area and savings, such as the \$300,000 saved in the Plimmerton Station upgrade.
54. Tony Stratford addressed the Committee and suggested that the Council could save money by creating a by-law or a campaign to encourage local businesses such as cafes, restaurants and pubs to be responsible for cleaning up their entrance way, and the footpath in the area outside their front and rear entrances. This would help to reduce Council cleaning costs and the spread of graffiti in the city and also could lead to a yearly award for the best kept premises or street.
55. Malcolm Sparrow and Robert Tredger from the Tawa Community Board addressed the Committee and said that the submission on the DAP 2010/11 by the Tawa Community Board focussed on matters that affected Tawa residents, such as the proposed rates increase of 6.2% which was too high and way ahead of inflation. Mr Sparrow suggested that the Council should look at all its expenses and costs before increasing rates and although the Board supported the proposed funds for an artificial surface in Tawa they also requested that the

renewal of the pool swimming roof should be a priority for the Council. The Board did not support the proposed cuts in services to the removal of hazardous trees and also requested that the Council should not cut funds to the supply of plants to Council reserves. The Board did not support the proposed changes to car parking charges and hours of operation and suggested that improvements needed to be made to ease congestion on the roads and the Council should invest in increasing the capacity of Park and Ride facilities.

(Councillor Pepperell left the meetings at 3.51pm.)
(Councillor Pepperell rejoined the meeting at 3.55pm.)

(The meeting adjourned at 4.07pm to reconvene on Tuesday 24 May at 9.15am.)

MINUTES

TUESDAY 24 MAY 2011

9.18AM – 10.26AM
10.42AM – 12.30PM
1.42PM – 3.01PM
3.31PM – 4.11PM

**Committee Room 1,
Ground Floor, Council Offices,
101 Wakefield Street
Wellington**

PRESENT:

Mayor Wade-Brown	(9.18am – 10.26am, 10.42am – 12.27pm)
Councillor Ahipene-Mercer	(9.18am – 10.26am, 10.42am – 12.30pm, 1.48pm – 3.01pm)
Councillor Best (Deputy Chair)	(9.18am – 10.26am, 10.42am – 11.58am, 1.42pm – 2.56pm)
Councillor Cook	(9.18am – 10.26am, 10.58am – 11.42am, 11.58am - 12.30pm)
Councillor Coughlan	(9.18am – 10.26am, 10.42am – 12.30pm, 1.42pm – 3.01pm, 3.31pm – 3.56pm)
Councillor Eagle	(9.20am – 9.43am, 9.54am - 10.26am, 10.53am – 12.30pm, 2.11pm – 3.01pm, 3.31pm – 4.11pm)
Councillor Foster (Chair)	(9.18am – 9.52am, 9.56am – 10.07am, 10.08am – 10.26am, 10.42am – 12.30pm, 1.42pm – 3.01pm, 3.49pm – 4.11pm)

Strategy and Policy Committee – Meeting of Tuesday 17 May 2011, Wednesday 18 May 2011 and Tuesday 24 May 2011

Councillor Gill	(9.18am – 10.26am, 10.47am – 10.58am, 11.07am - 12.30pm, 1.42pm – 3.01pm, 3.31pm – 4.11pm)
Councillor Lester	(9.18am – 10.26am, 10.42am – 11.32am, 12.04pm – 12.30pm, 1.42pm – 3.01pm, 3.31pm – 3.58pm)
Councillor McKinnon	(9.18am – 10.19am, 10.22am - 10.26am, 10.42am – 11.32am, 1.42pm – 3.01pm, 3.31pm – 4.11pm)
Councillor Marsh	(9.18am – 10.26am, 10.42am – 10.58am, 11.07am – 11.58am, 12.07pm - 12.30pm, 1.42pm – 3.01pm, 3.31pm – 4.11pm)
Councillor Morrison	(9.18am – 10.26am, 11.08am - 12.30pm, 1.42pm – 2.13pm, 2.18pm – 2.56pm)
Councillor Pannett	(9.18am – 10.26am, 10.53am – 12.30pm, 1.42pm – 3.01pm, 3.31pm – 4.11pm)
Councillor Pepperell	(9.18am – 9.42am, 9.44am – 10.04am - 10.26am, 10.42am – 11.42am, 11.58am - 12.30pm)
Councillor Ritchie	(9.25am – 10.26am, 10.58am – 11.20am.)

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Svea Cunliffe-Steel – City Secretary

Laura Pilgrim – Committee Advisor

123/11P **APOLOGIES**
(1215/52/IM)

NOTED:

There were no apologies.

124/11P **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**
(1215/52/IM)

NOTED:

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

125/11P **ORAL SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2011/2012 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN (DAP) CONT...** (9.18AM – 4.11PM.)
(1215/52/IM)

56. Nick Kelly representing the Wellington Tramways Union addressed the Committee and discussed his concern over the safety of pedestrians and road users in certain areas of the city such as Manners Street. Mr Kelly said that while it was understood that work had been undertaken to improve safety in this area, there were concern that pedestrians were still vulnerable. Mr Kelly also added that proposed changes to the Central Library opening hours would impact on the

Strategy and Policy Committee – Meeting of Tuesday 17 May 2011, Wednesday 18 May 2011 and Tuesday 24 May 2011

Union's members and consequently he urged Councillors to look at alternative solutions to making savings.

(Councillor Eagle joined the meeting at 9.20am.)

(Councillor Ritchie joined the meeting at 9.25am.)

57. Will Caccia-Birch and Jim Tepuni representing the Wellington Rugby Football Union addressed the Committee and discussed the relationship that the WRFU has with the Council and the ways in which the two parties work together on projects of mutual benefit. On behalf of the WRFU, Mr Tepuni strongly endorsed the Council's programme of the rollout of artificial pitches and said that it was important that this programme was continued to be progressed in order to accommodate increased demand for artificial turfs in the Wellington area. Mr Caccia-Birch said that while the increased number of artificial surfaces in the Wellington region had led to an increase in the number of playing hours available on artificial turfs, it was also important that the Council maintained existing grass pitches and install adequate drainage to prevent games and training sessions being cancelled.

(Councillor Pepperell left the meeting at 9.42am.)

(Councillor Eagle left the meeting at 9.43am.)

58. Anne Dunlop from the Karori Community Centre addressed the Committee and stated that they strongly objected to the deferral of maintenance for Vogelmorn Hall and St Johns Hall Karori, as 23 regular activities took place at the St Johns Hall which demonstrated the regular use of this site. Ms Dunlop urged the Council to reconsider deferral of the maintenance of the hall, as this would have an adverse affect on the services, programmes and activities the Community Centre provided. Ms Dunlop also stated that the closure of any halls in the area would have a significant detrimental impact on groups in the community.

(Councillor Pepperell rejoined the meeting at 9.44am.)

(Councillor Foster left the meeting at 9.52am.)

59. Kent Duston from the Mt Victoria Residents Association addressed the Committee and discussed the quality of the DAP, which Mr Duston found was substandard and appeared to be more of a brochure than a strategic planning document, with little link between the text and the figures on each page. In addition, Mr Duston said that the Council's website is difficult to navigate and the DAP document had disappeared from the site as soon as the consultation period had ended. Mr. Duston said that as the Council had not implemented any of the suggestions made by the Association for last years DAP, it left the Association questioning the relevance of the consultation process.

TABLED: Supplementary Information from Kent Duston and the Mt Victoria Residents Association, reference 125/11P (a).

(Councillor Eagle rejoined the meeting at 9.54am.)

(Councillor Foster rejoined the meeting at 9.56am.)

(Councillor Pepperell left the meeting at 10.04am.)

60. Pauline Swann from Waterfront Watch addressed the Committee and said that it was the belief of the Waterfront Watch that a review of the Waterfront Development Plan should not be completed until a decision which related to the appeal of Variation 11 had been reached. In relation to Frank Kitts Park, Ms Swann said that she had spoken to many people who used the Park and who did not support the proposed \$4 million redesign or the placement of a Chinese garden at this site, which should be moved to Waitangi Park due to Frank Kitts Park being used for open air events. Waterfront Watch reiterated its support for the construction of toilet facilities at the Motor Home Park and requested that any further development of Sheds 1 and 6 should incorporate toilet facilities.

TABLED: Supplementary Information from Pauline Swann and Waterfront Watch, reference 125/11P (b).

(Councillor Foster left the meeting at 10.07am.)

(Councillor Foster rejoined the meeting at 10.08am.)

61. Maree Libeau addressed the Committee and raised her concerns that not enough was being done to improve the suburb of Tawa, as there were a number of issues which she had raised with the Council and Tawa Community Board such as the poor standard of the bus timetable and the presence of rubbish on Tawa Main Street.

(Councillor McKinnon left the meeting at 10.19am.)

(Councillor McKinnon rejoined the meeting at 10.22am.)

(The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.26am.)

(The meeting resumed at 10.42am.)

(Mayor Wade- Brown and Councillors Ahipene-Mercer, Best, Coughlan, Foster, Lester, Marsh, McKinnon and Pepperell were present when the meeting resumed.)

62. Ian Cassels representing the Wellington Company addressed the Committee and submitted a paper entitled 'Economic Effects for Wellington City of Additional Office Building Development to the North of Wellington Railway Station'. This paper discussed how property values in the city centre had fallen by a quarter since 1990, however rates had not decreased during this period. Mr Cassels said that as the Government was currently cutting back on services and other companies were relocating, the number of vacant office

buildings in the city was set to rise leading to further pressure on prices. Mr Cassels said that as there was no obvious use for the empty office spaces and the market seemed reluctant to convert office building for residential use, the Council should consider revising the process for these conversions to increase the vibrancy in the city centre.

TABLED: Supplementary Information from the Wellington Company, reference 125/11P (c).

(Councillor Gill joined the meeting at 10.47am.)
 (Councillor Pannett joined the meeting at 10.53am.)
 (Councillor Eagle joined the meeting at 10.53am.)
 (Councillor Cook joined the meeting at 10.58am.)
 (Councillor Ritchie joined the meeting at 10.58am.)
 (Councillor Gill left the meeting at 10.58am.)
 (Councillor Marsh left the meeting at 10.58am.)

63. Ron England addressed the Committee and made a submission that the Council should encourage innovation and entrepreneurship as much as possible within the city, with several recent publications on the state and development of the economy that could assist Councillors in their work.

(Councillor Gill rejoined the meeting at 11.07am.)
 (Councillor Marsh rejoined the meeting at 11.07am.)
 (Councillor Morrison joined the meeting at 11.08am.)

64. Christina Bellis representing the Sustainability Trust addressed the Committee and stated that she strongly opposed the proposals for a deep water pool due to the current economic climate and suggested that the Council should focus its spending in areas such as community resilience and emergency management. Ms Bellis informed the Committee that the Council should provide dedicated funding for urban food production and water conservation/infrastructure and also consider using Community Centres during an emergency as centres with access to water tanks and for general community resilience. Ms Bellis suggested that the city would also benefit from a centralised 'Eco Hub' where people could obtain advice, products and services that decreased the environmental strain and increased their quality of life.

(Councillor Ritchie left the meeting at 11.20am.)

65. Ari Rosilam addressed the Committee and informed the Committee that the DAP document itself was difficult to understand and made it difficult for members of the public to ascertain changes in spending from year to year. Mr Rosilam said that his main concern was with the amount of money that the Council spent on both legal advice and consultants, which could be easily reduced if the work was put out to

competitive tender. Mr Rosilam suggested that while the customer call centre was an excellent service, the website and Council advertising needed significant improvement to ensure that the Council was getting value for money.

(Councillor McKinnon left the meeting at 11.32am.)

(Councillor Lester left the meeting at 11.32am.)

66. Leo Lemaury and Linda Blake representing All Sourced addressed the Committee and discussed the potential savings that could be made if the Council purchased portable toilets for every household. Ms Leumary suggested that as the earthquake in Christchurch had highlighted that there was a huge cost in bulk buying portable toilets after a major event, the Council should pre-emptively purchase the toilets as part of their emergency planning.

(Councillor Cook left the meeting at 11.42 am.)

(Councillor Pepperell left the meeting at 11.42am.)

67. Mike Mellor representing Living Street Aotearoa addressed the Committee and expressed his support for the proposals in relation the governance arrangements for grants. Mr Mellor said that the Council needed to support high quality urban design and improvements to the city's public transport network, with the organisation happy to see that the Council had recently back the multi-modal Ngauranga to Airport scheme. Mr Mellor said that there was also the need for improvements in transport safety and the creation of programmes which encourage people to walk to work and school.

68. Mike Mellor addressed the Committee on behalf of Public Transport Voice and Trans-Action and voiced his concern that the proposed Basin Reserve flyover would increase congestion in the city. Mr Mellor said that the DAP 2011/12 did not mention the use of trains and also did not include comparative information which would have been useful for public reference. On behalf of both bodies Mr Mellor supported the proposed changes to car parking charges as it would encourage people to use public transport options. He also voiced his opposition to the proposed deep water pool feasibility study as the current economic climate was an inappropriate time to embark on such a project.

(Councillor Pepperell rejoined the meeting at 11.58am.)

(Councillor Cook rejoined the meeting at 11.58am.)

(Councillor Marsh left the meeting at 11.58am.)

(Councillor Best left the meeting at 11.58am.)

69. Maria Gobbi addressed the Committee and said that as both a keen user and a mother of a keen user of the Central Library, she urged the Council not to change the hours of operation for the library which would result in only a modest saving for a significant impact on users.

Ms. Gobbi felt that the cost of keeping the opening hours of the Library could be absorbed by not proceeding with the feasibility study into a deep water pool.

(Councillor Lester rejoined the meeting at 12.04pm.)

70. Gus Charteris and Allan Probert representing the Inner City Residents and Business Association, Enterprise Miramar Peninsula and Newtown Business Association and Glenn Cooper representing the Cuba Street Quarter Association addressed the Committee and submitted that the Council should invest more resources to support small-medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the city. Mr Charteris, Probert and Cooper requested that the Council employ a full-time SME Officer to assist businesses in areas such as obtaining information about Council processes and information about grants, with SME owners currently frustrated by a lack of information provided by the Council which in some cases had led to delays in decisions which had financial implications for the businesses.

(Councillor Marsh rejoined the meeting at 12.07pm.)

(Mayor Wade-Brown left the meeting at 12.27pm.)

In the absence of Mayor Wade-Brown and Councillor McKinnon, Councillor Foster assumed the Chair.

71. Gilbert Sanseau and Phaedra Upton representing Cycle Aware Wellington addressed the Committee and said that that in compiling a response to the DAP 2011/12 he had received 200 emails within one week from members of Cycle Aware Wellington who supported more network sized programmes such as those proposed by the NZTA. Mr Sanseau requested that the Council also ensure that it helps reduce cycling accident black spots and review the policy of sharing cycle and bus lanes. Mr Sanseau requested that the Council use its influence with the Greater Wellington Regional Council to improve the cycle route between Ngauranga to Petone.

(The meeting adjourned at 12.30pm for lunch)

(The meeting resumed at 1.42pm.)

(Councillors Best, Coughlan, Foster, Gill, Lester, Marsh, McKinnon, Morrison and Pannett were present when the meeting resumed.)

In the absence of Mayor Wade-Brown, Councillor McKinnon assumed the Chair.

72. Paul Cameron representing Sport Wellington addressed the Committee and commended the Council on the partnership which had developed with Sport Wellington in the organisation of events such as Around the Bays. Mr Cameron said that recent developments such as the new Indoor Sport centre, artificial pitches programme and work on

the Basin Reserve were very exciting for sports in Wellington and that the potential for a deep water pool in Wellington would significantly improve facilities for the entire region and place Wellington at the centre of sport in New Zealand. Finally, Mr Cameron said that in relation to the proposed changes to the car parking fees and the hours of operation Sport Wellington did not support this as it would mean that some people would not be able to participate in events in the city.

(Councillor Ahipene-Mercer rejoined the meeting at 1.48pm.)

73. Pauline Swann addressed the Committee and said that she did not support the feasibility study in the construction of a deep water pool as the money could be spent funding the school pool grant and other services. Ms Swann said that the Council had spent money on feasibility studies in the past which had not resulted in a project at the end. Ms Swann also said that she was opposed to the increase in the fees for car parking and the increased hours of operation, as the Council risked an empty and soulless city if the proposals were implemented as shoppers and diners would seek to go elsewhere. Finally Ms. Swann raised her concern about the review of the Waterfront Draft Development Plan and the associated costs.

(Councillor Eagle rejoined the meeting at 2.11pm.)

(Councillor Morrison left the meeting at 2.13pm.)

74. Donald MacDonald addressed the Committee and provided Councillors with photos of areas in the city where action was needed, as if these were not resolved it would lead to visitors and residents to have the impression that the Council was not acting on graffiti and deterioration of assets.
75. Alan Royal and Kendal Ackhurst representing the Accessible Advisory Group addressed the Committee and reminded Elected Members that the word impairment did not just apply to those with physical disabilities but to those who were unable to adapt to their environment. Mr Royal and Ackhurst said that the Draft Annual Plan document had disappeared from the website on the day the consultation period closed which was surprising as the website had indicated that the document would remain online and furthermore the document itself was not entirely suitable for people with visual impairments. Mr Royal said that the DAP had only made use of the word accessible once in the entire document and that the Council should be making steps to improve the city's accessibility as 20% of the population had accessibility issues.

(Councillor Morrison rejoined the meeting at 2.18pm.)

TABLED: Supplementary Information from the Accessibility Advisory Group, reference 125/11P (d).

76. Jo Vilipaama and Barry Hislop from ACC addressed the Committee and said that the ACC was committed to making Wellington and its workplaces safe and to assist this they were interested in assisting the Council with the renewal of Wellington's Safe Community Accreditation. Mr Hislop also added that the Council needed to create an inclusive safety strategy for all Wellingtonians.
77. Graham Howell addressed the Committee and expressed his concern regarding the proposed cuts to the Central Library's hours of operation. Mr Howell urged the Council to make public transport free and to impose a congestion charge on single occupancy cars during the day to help ease congestion on the road. Mr Howell said that the Council should not look at redundancies as a way of creating savings and explore other options.
78. Tom Law and Bernie Harris representing the Federation of Wellington Progressive and Residents' Association addressed the Committee and said that they had not been happy with the response they had received from Wellington City Council officers in relation to the DAP process. Mr Law said that while the Federation had initially requested 30 minutes to speak to the Committee, they had only received just 10 minutes which required Mr Law and Mr Harris to spend a number of days reducing their presentation to fit into the 10 minutes allocated. To help make the public consultation process more effective, Mr Law and Mr Harris suggested that the Council use the reserve days set aside for the scheduling of public hearings.
- (Councillor Best left the meeting at 2.56pm.)
(Councillor Morrison left the meeting at 2.56pm.)
- (The meeting adjourned at 3.01pm.)
(The meeting resumed at 3.31 pm.)
- (Councillors Coughlan, Eagle, Gill, Lester, Marsh, McKinnon and Pannett were present when the meeting resumed.)
79. Tom Cummings addressed the Committee and said that he felt that the Council had lost touch with ratepayers, as some of the proposals in the Draft Annual Plan would drive people away from the city centre, especially the planned increase in the car parking fees. Mr Cummings said that while there is little pressure on parking spaces after office hours the potential increase in car parking fees would mean that he and other people would take their business elsewhere, seriously affecting businesses in the city centre.
80. Paul Barber representing Fair Trade Wellington addressed the Committee and said that there was no information in the 2011/12 Draft Annual Plan in relation to the Fair Trade status of the City. Mr Barber outlined the processes and policies in pursuing this status and the benefits to producers of Fair Trade products. Mr Barber requested

that the Council adopt a Fair Trade City Action Plan to assist the Action Plan and work carried out by volunteers.

(Councillor Foster joined the meeting at 3.49pm.)

(Councillor Coughlan left the meeting at 3.56pm.)

(Councillor Lester left the meeting at 3.58pm.)

81. Michael Taylor addressed the Committee and said that ratepayers had to contend with a rise in GST as well as any proposals to increase rates or change service costs and consequently the Council should not invest in a feasibility study for a deep water pool especially when existing facilities could be better used. Mr Taylor requested that the DAP document be further improved, including the addition of information which related to previous targets and previous years' spending. Mr Taylor spoke in support of increasing the car parking charges and said that if the local businesses did not want the increase, they could subsidise 50% of the increase with users paying the other 50%.

The meeting concluded at 4.11pm.

Confirmed: _____
Chair
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